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(54) **LOTTERY VENDING MACHINE**

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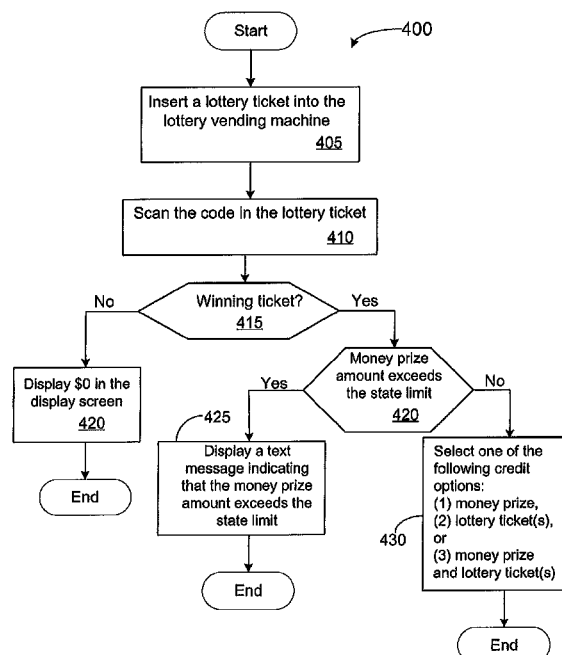
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CPC *G06Q 30/02* (2013.01); *G06Q 50/34* (2013.01); *G07F 17/329* (2013.01); *G07F 17/3246* (2013.01); *G07F 17/42* (2013.01)

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USPC 463/42, 25, 29, 16, 17; 705/14.14; 706/47; 436/15
See application file for complete search history.

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(57) **ABSTRACT**

In one embodiment of the invention, an apparatus comprises a lottery vending machine having an input slot configured to receive a lottery ticket, a second input slot configured to receive cash, and an output slot configured to output at least one of a money amount and a lottery ticket. In an embodiment, the apparatus provides a selectable credit option where the lottery vending machine, in response to receiving a winning lottery ticket, is configured to provide one of the following credit options: a money prize, one or more selected lottery tickets, or a combination of one or more lottery ticket(s) and a money amount.
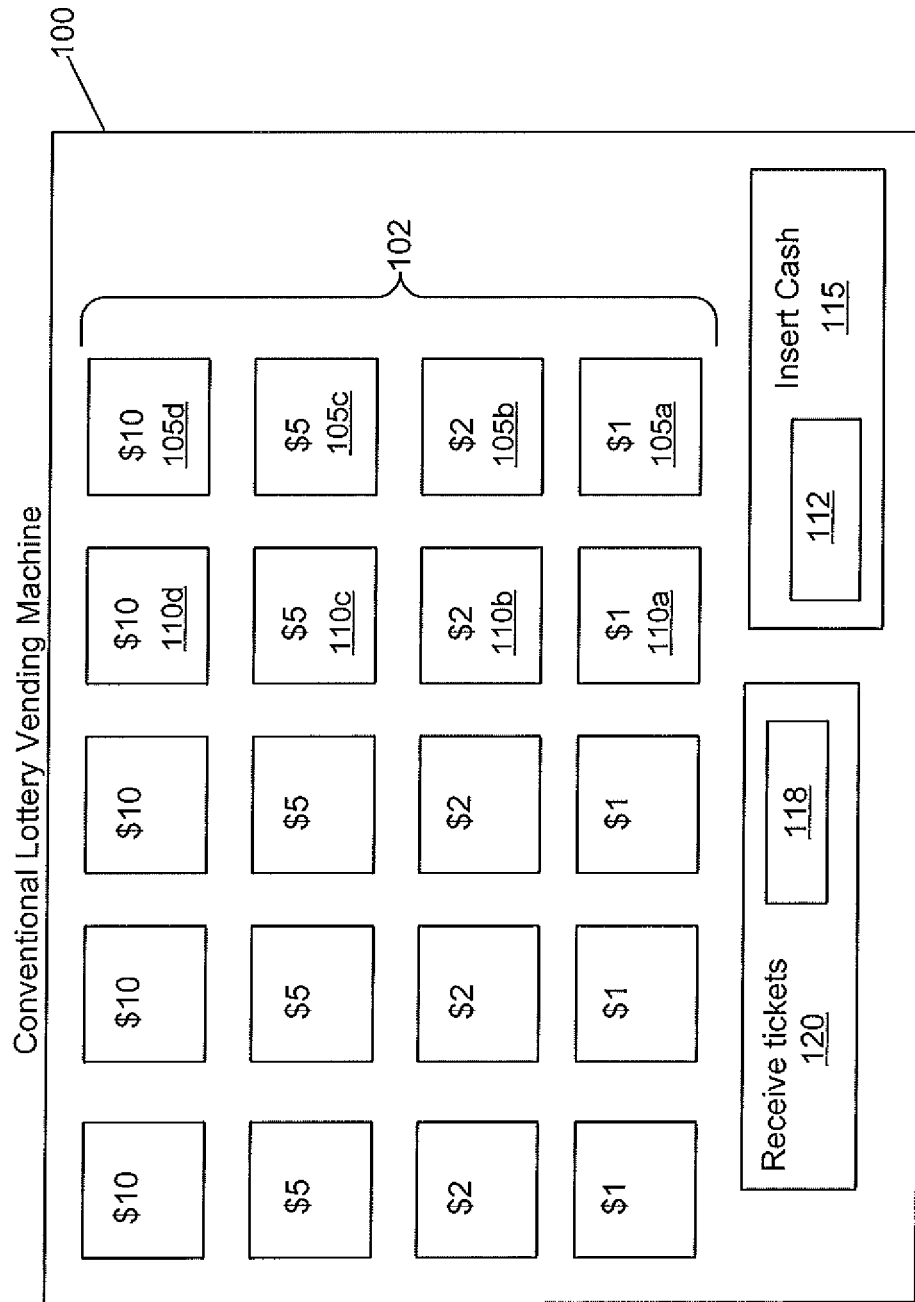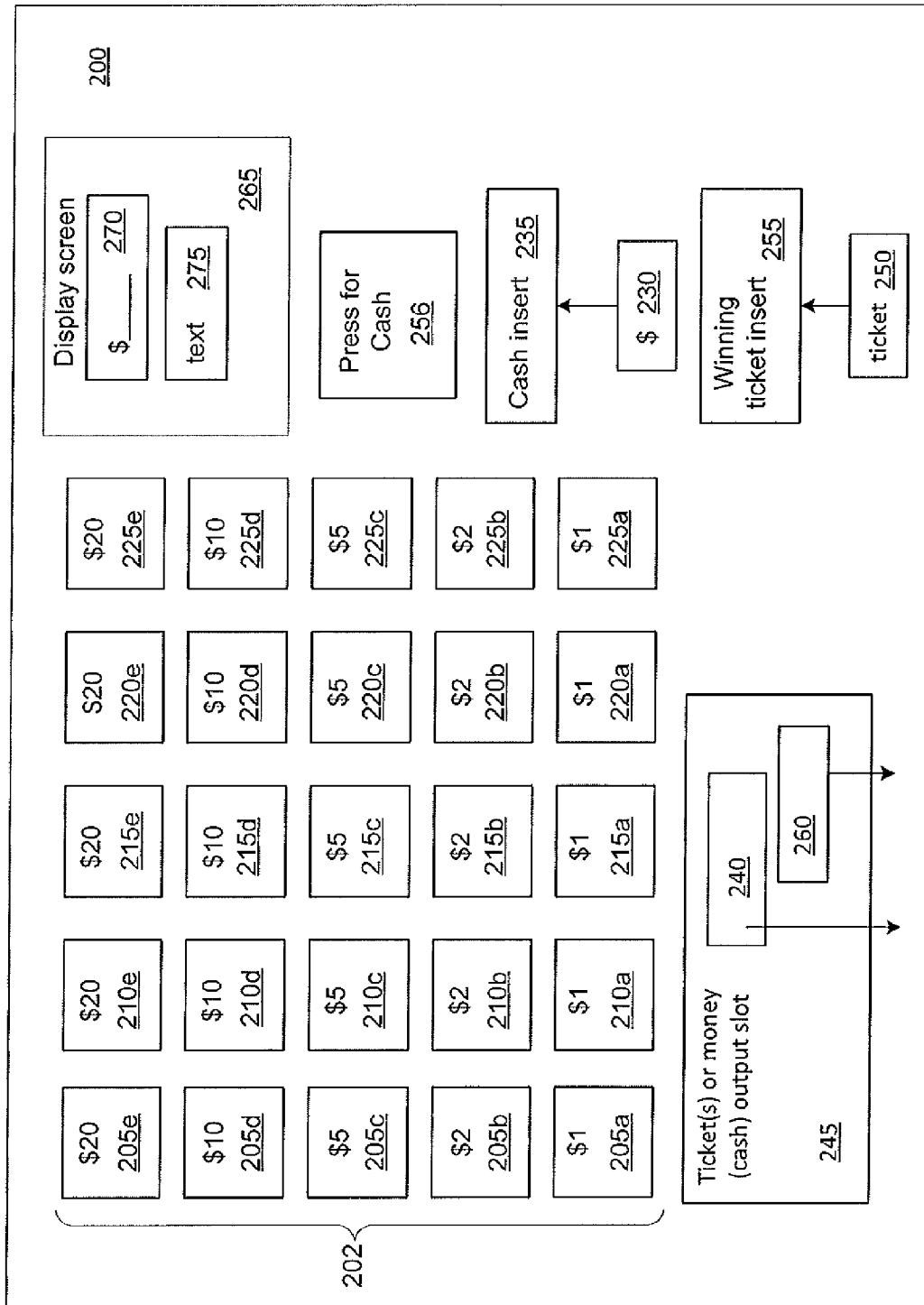
12 Claims, 4 Drawing Sheets

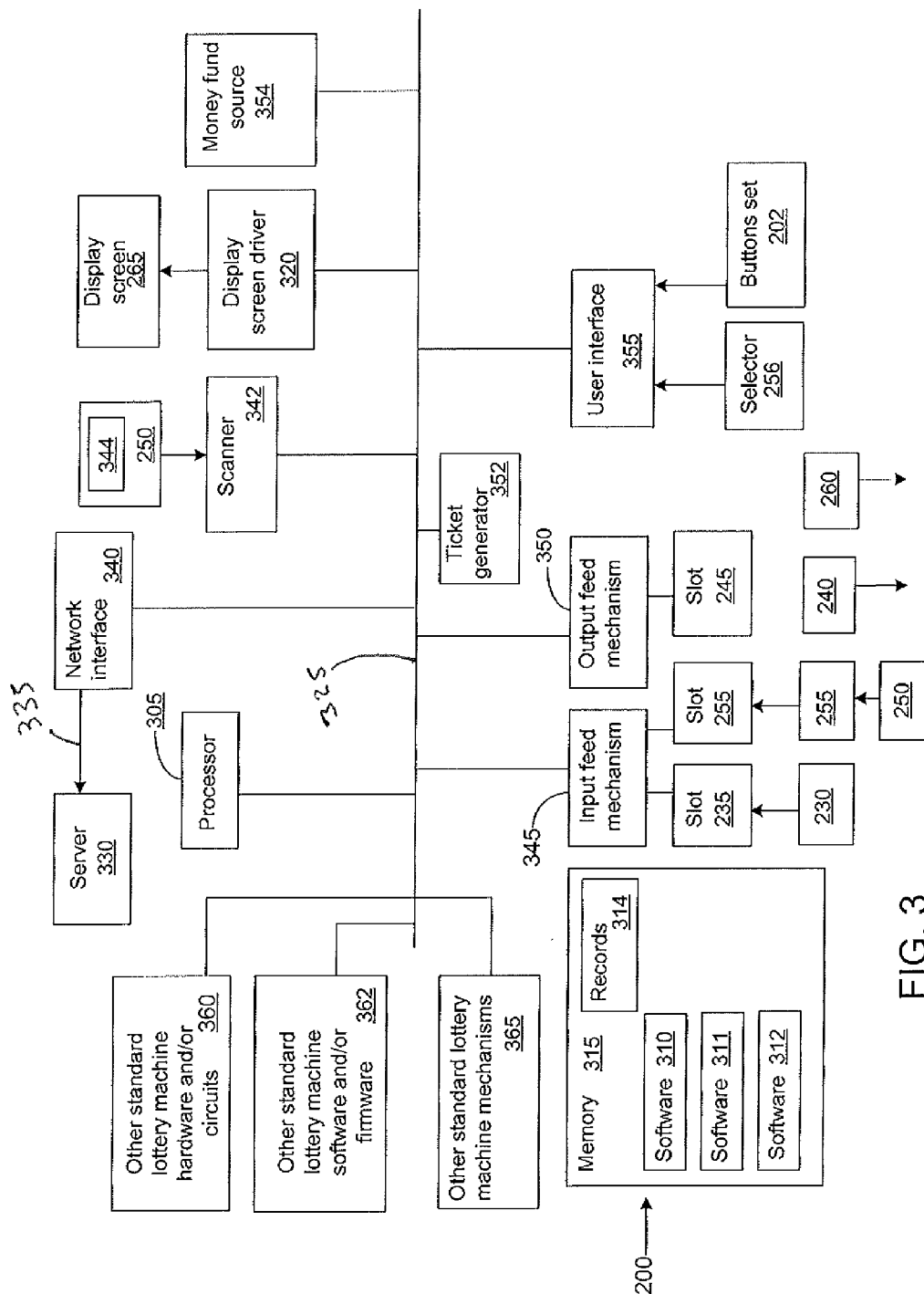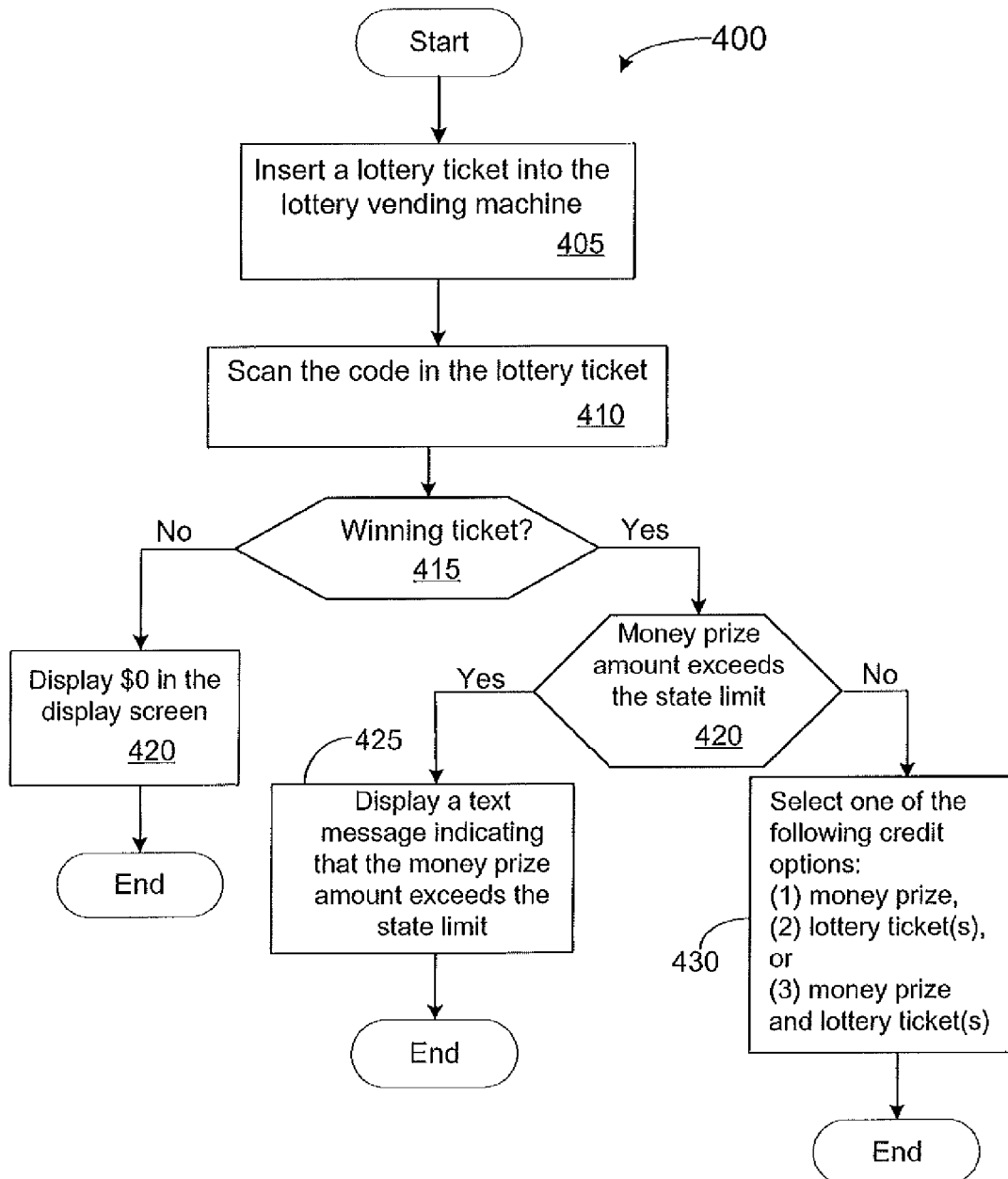Conventional Lottery Vending Machine

100

102

$10	$10	$10	$10 110d	$10 105d
$5	$5	$5	$5 110c	$5 105c
$2	$2	$2	$2 110b	$2 105b
$1	$1	$1	$1 110a	$1 105a

Insert Cash
115

112

Receive tickets
120

118

FIG. 1

FIG. 2

Money fund source 354

Display screen 265

Display screen driver 320

344 250

Scanner 342

Network interface 340

Server 330

Processor 305

335

325

Other standard lottery machine hardware and/or circuits 360

Other standard lottery machine software and/or firmware 362

Other standard lottery machine mechanisms 365

Ticket generator 352

350

Output feed mechanism

Slot 245

260

240

255 255

Slot 255

Input feed mechanism

345

Slot 235

230

250

User interface 355

Buttons set 202

Selector 256

Memory 315

Records 314

Software 310

Software 311

Software 312

200

FIG. 3

Start

—400

Insert a lottery ticket into the lottery vending machine
405

Scan the code in the lottery ticket
410

Winning ticket?
415

No → Display $0 in the display screen
420

End

Yes → Money prize amount exceeds the state limit
420

Yes → Display a text message indicating that the money prize amount exceeds the state limit
425

End

No → Select one of the following credit options:
(1) money prize,
(2) lottery ticket(s), or
(3) money prize and lottery ticket(s)
430

End

FIG. 4

LOTTERY VENDING MACHINE

CROSS-REFERENCE TO RELATED APPLICATION

This application claims a priority to and claims the benefit of U.S. Provisional Application No. 61/594,332, filed on Feb. 2, 2012. U.S. Provisional Application No. 61/594,332 is hereby incorporated herein by reference.

TECHNICAL FIELD

Embodiments of the invention relate generally to lottery vending machines.

BACKGROUND

Self-service lottery ticket machines are mostly available at larger outlets such as, for example, grocery stores and selected retailers. These machines allow individuals to purchase lottery tickets, to select a lottery game, and/or to scan the tickets to determine if the tickets are winning tickets. These machines will typically accept bills such as, for example, $1, $5, and/or $20 bills.

FIG. 1 is a block diagram of a conventional lottery vending machine 100 that is currently available to individuals. The buttons set 102 permits the individual to select the lottery ticket payment price amount and/or lottery ticket type that the individual desires. For example, the buttons 105a, 105b, 105c, and 105d permit the individual to select lottery payment price amounts of $1, $2, $5, and $10, respectively, for a particular type of lottery contest. As another example, the buttons 110a, 110b, 110c, and 110d permit the individual to select the lottery payment price amounts of $1, $2, $5, and $10, respectively, for another particular type of lottery contest. The individual can insert cash 112 (e.g., dollar bills or coins) into the cash slot 115 and can receive the lottery ticket 118 desired by the individual from the ticket output slot 120.

However, these currently used self-service lottery ticket machines do not dispense funds for a winning ticket and require the winning ticket owner to seek a store clerk in order to obtain the winning ticket funds. This process is inconvenient for the ticket owner because he/she will need to find/seek a cashier and/or to wait for his/her turn at the cashier line.

In some states such as Ohio, for example, at least some lottery ticket machines permit the winning ticket holder to take credit from the machines. However, the credit amount provided by these lottery machines is limited to relatively small cash amounts. For example, these machines will not credit more than, for example, $60 dollars for a winning ticket.

Other current systems provide the following features. U.S. Pat. No. 7,914,371 discloses a networked-connected lottery machine that communicates with a server that is managed by a lottery authority. However, this lottery machine also requires the winning ticket owner to find/seek a cashier in order to claim the prize for a winning lottery ticket.

U.S. Patent Publication 2004/0087360 discloses networked gaming device that also communicates with a server. However, this gaming device does not provide some of the features in a self-service lottery ticket machine.

Based on the above discussion, the current technology is limited in its capabilities and suffers from at least the above constraints and deficiencies.

SUMMARY

In one embodiment of the invention, an apparatus includes a lottery vending machine having an input slot configured to

receive a lottery ticket, a second input slot configured to receive cash, and an output slot configured to output at least one of a money prize and a purchased lottery ticket.

An embodiment of the invention provides an apparatus having a selectable credit option where the lottery vending machine, in response to receiving a winning lottery ticket, is configured to provide one of the following credit options: a money prize, one or more selected lottery tickets, or a combination of one or more lottery ticket(s) and a money amount.

In another embodiment of the invention, an apparatus includes a lottery vending machine having an input slot configured to receive a lottery ticket, a second input slot configured to receive cash, and means for outputting at least one of a money prize and a purchased lottery ticket.

In yet another embodiment of the invention, a method of processing a transaction in a lottery vending machine includes: inserting a lottery ticket into a lottery vending machine, scanning the lottery ticket, if the ticket is a winning ticket, then determining if the money prize exceeds a state limit, and if the money prize does not exceed the state limit, then providing a credit option from one of the following: a money prize, one or more lottery tickets, and a money prize and one or more lottery tickets.

In yet another embodiment of the invention, the lottery vending machine (and method performed by the machine) may be configured to eject (or return) the lottery ticket from the lottery vending machine back to the user, if the winning ticket exceeds the state limit.

It is to be understood that both the foregoing general description and the following detailed description are exemplary and explanatory only and are not restrictive of the invention, as claimed.

The accompanying drawings, which are incorporated in and constitute a part of this specification, illustrate one (several) embodiment(s) of the invention and together with the description, serve to explain the principles of the invention.

BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

Non-limiting and non-exhaustive embodiments of the invention are described with reference to the following figures, wherein like reference numerals refer to like parts throughout the various views unless otherwise specified.

Additionally, the left-most digit of a reference number identifies the drawing in which the reference number first appears.

FIG. 1 is a block diagram of a conventional lottery vending machine.

FIG. 2 is a block diagram of a lottery vending machine, in accordance with an embodiment of the invention.

FIG. 3 is a block diagram of additional details of a lottery vending machine, in accordance with an embodiment of the invention.

FIG. 4 is a method of processing a transaction in a lottery vending machine, in accordance with an embodiment of the invention.

DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS

In the description herein, numerous specific details are provided, such as examples of components, parts, structures, and/or methods, to provide a thorough understanding of embodiments of the invention. One skilled in the relevant art will recognize, however, that an embodiment of the invention can be practiced without one or more of the specific details, or with other apparatus, systems, methods, components, mate-

rials, parts, structures, and/or the like. In other instances, well-known structures, materials, or operations are not shown or described in detail to avoid obscuring aspects of embodiments of the invention. Additionally, the figures are representative in nature and their shapes are not intended to illustrate the precise shape or precise size of any element and are not intended to limit the scope of the invention.

Those skilled in the art will understand that when an element or part in the drawings is referred to as being "on" (or "connected" to or "coupled" to or "attached" to) another element, it can be directly on (or attached to) the other element or intervening elements may also be present. Furthermore, relative terms such as "inner", "outer", "upper", "above", "lower", "beneath", and "below", and similar terms, may be used herein to describe a relationship of one element to another element. It is understood that these terms are intended to encompass different orientations of the device in addition to the orientation depicted in the figures.

Although the terms first, second, and the like may be used herein to describe various elements, components, parts, regions, layers, chambers, and/or sections, these elements, components, parts, regions, layers, chambers, slot, and/or sections should not be limited by these terms. These terms are only used to distinguish one element, component, part, region, layer, chamber, slot, or section from another element, component, part, region, layer, chamber, slot, or section. Thus, a first element, component, part, region, layer, chamber, slot, or section discussed below could be termed a second element, component, part, region, layer, chamber, slot, or section without departing from the teachings of the present invention.

Embodiments of the invention are described herein with reference to cross-sectional view illustrations that are schematic illustrations of representative embodiments of the invention. As such, variations from the shapes of the illustrations as a result of, for example, manufacturing techniques and/or tolerances are expected. For purposes of avoiding in overcrowding the drawings, the elements shown in the drawings are not necessarily drawn to scale, and the elements may be larger in physical size or smaller in physical size than as shown in the drawings.

Embodiments of the invention should not be construed as limited to the particular shapes of the regions or components/parts/elements illustrated herein but are to include deviations in shapes that result, for example, from manufacturing or particular implementations. For example, an element illustrated or described as square or rectangular may typically have rounded or curved features due to normal manufacturing tolerances or due to a particular implementation. Thus, the elements illustrated in the figures are schematic in nature and their shapes are not intended to illustrate the precise shape of an element of a device and are not intended to limit the scope of the invention.

FIG. 2 is a block diagram of a lottery vending machine **200**, in accordance with an embodiment of the invention. The machine **200** includes the buttons set **202** that permits an individual to select the lottery ticket payment price amount and/or lottery ticket contest-type that the individual desires. For example, the buttons **205a**, **205b**, **205c**, **205d**, and **205e** permit the individual to select lottery payment price amounts of $1, $2, $5, $10, and $20, respectively, for a particular type of lottery contest. As another example, the buttons **210a**, **210b**, **210c**, **210d**, and **210e** permit the individual to select the lottery payment price amounts of $1, $2, $5, $10, and $20, respectively, for another particular type of lottery contest. It is understood the number of buttons and/or the number of button sub-sets among the set **202** may vary. For example, the set

202 may contain a greater number (or a lesser number) of buttons than those shown in FIG. 2. It is also understood that the payment amount corresponding to at least some of the buttons in the set **202** may also vary.

The buttons set **202** may further include additional buttons **215a-215e**, **220a-220e**, and/or **225a-225e** for providing other types of lottery contests.

The individual can insert cash **230** (e.g., dollar bills or coins) into the cash slot (cash insert) **235** and can receive the lottery ticket **240** desired by the individual from the ticket output slot **245**. The individual will receive a lottery ticket type based on the button selected among the buttons set **202**.

The individual can also insert a winning lottery ticket **250** into the winning ticket slot **255** and then press the selector **256** (e.g., button **256**) if the individual wishes to immediately receive the money prize **260** (e.g., cash prize **260**) that is awarded for the winning lottery ticket **250**. After inserting the winning lottery ticket **250** into the slot **255** and pressing the selector **256**, the individual will receive the winning money prize **260** from the slot **245**. The winning money prize **260** may be, by way of example and not by way of limitation, a cash amount.

In an embodiment of the invention, the machine **200** also includes a display screen **265** that is configured to display the money prize amount **270** for a winning lottery ticket **250** and/or is also configured to display a text message **275** that states "see lottery authority" if the money prize amount **270** is over the state limit for a money prize amount of a winning lottery ticket **250**. The lottery vending machine **200** may be configured to eject (or return) the lottery ticket **250** from the machine **200** back to the user, if the winning ticket **250** exceeds the state limit. The machine **200** may be configured to eject the lottery ticket **250** from the ticket insert **255** or from the output slot **245**.

In an embodiment, the display screen **265** is a light emitting diode (LED) screen that provides output lighting and displays the money prize amount **270** and text message **275**.

Therefore, an embodiment of the invention provides a lottery vending machine **200** that makes the process of cashing in a winning lottery ticket **250** to be automated and easier and faster for the individual. The machine **200** allows for the ticket holder to cash in or dispose of a winning lottery ticket **250** without having to go to or find/seek a cashier(s), wait in line, and/or be subjected to other inconvenience when claiming a cash prize for a winning lottery ticket. The machine **200** will in essence eliminate the need for an individual to go to a convenience store and seek out a cashier to cash his/her winning lottery ticket(s).

As will be discussed in additional details below, in an embodiment of the invention, the lottery vending machine **200** would typically include other components such as, for example, a ticket feed mechanism for receiving and outputting a lottery ticket and a scanner which would read a code (e.g., a bar code) on the back of the lottery ticket to determine if the lottery ticket is a winning ticket.

FIG. 3 is a block diagram of additional details of a lottery vending machine **200**, in accordance with an embodiment of the invention. The machine **200** includes a processor **305** which can be, for example, a microprocessor, microcontroller, another type of controller, or another suitable type of processing device. In another embodiment of the invention, the machine **200** may be adapted to be implemented by one or more application-specific integrated circuits (ASICs), one or more hard-wired devices, and/or one or more mechanical devices. The processor **305** executes one or more software (e.g. software **310** and/or firmware **310** and other software/firmware) in a memory device **315** so that various operations

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described below are performed. For example, the processor **305** permits the display screen driver **320** to display the winning money prize amount **270** and/or text message **275** in the display screen **265**. The processor **305** executes the one or more software (and/or firmware) to perform other exemplary operations described below.

The one or more software code in the software **310** (and/or firmware **310**) and in other software elements (and/or firmware elements) illustrated in FIG. **3** may be programmed by use of standard programming languages (e.g., C or C++) and by use of standard programming techniques known to those skilled in the relevant art(s). Computing elements that are known to those skilled in the relevant art(s) are not shown in the machine **200** of FIG. **3** for purposes of focusing the discussion on embodiments of the invention.

One or more communication busses **325** in the machine **200** permits communication among the components and/or devices in the machine **200**.

The processor **305** also executes one or more software **310** (and/or firmware **310**) which controls the machine **200** to play a particular lottery game in accordance with the applicable game rules and pay tables.

It is noted that although each machine **200** may include its own respective processor **305** and memory device **315**, at least some or all of their functions may instead by provided at a remote location such as a network server (e.g., network server **330**) that communicates with the machine **200** over a network **335** such as, for example, a local area network, a wide area network such as the Internet, a microwave network, a wireless network, and/or another suitable type of network. The machine **200** may include a network interface **340** that allows communication via the network **335** between the machine **200** and a node connected to the network **335**.

The machine **200** also includes a scanner **342** that scans a code **344** (e.g., a bar code **344**) on the lottery ticket **250**, and the code **344** will contain the winning number if the ticket **344** is a winning lottery ticket. The scanner **342** reads the code **344** so that the processor **305** can determine whether or not the ticket **250** is a winning lottery ticket. This scanner **342** is similar in features and/or functions to a scanner that is used (by a cashier) for scanning the codes in a lottery ticket in order to determine if the lottery ticket contains a winning number set. The processor **305** can determine the values of the code **344** read by the scanner **342**.

The machine **200** also includes an input feed mechanism **345** that receives and forwards (for processing by the machine **200**) any cash **230** inserted into the slot **235** and lottery ticket **250** inserted into the slot **255**.

The machine **200** also includes an output feed mechanism **350** that outputs any lottery ticket **240** generated by the lottery ticket generator **352** and as similarly discussed above. The lottery ticket generator **352** may be, for example, a standard lottery ticket generator that is used in current lottery vending machines. The output feed mechanism **350** also outputs any money prize **260** provided by a winning lottery ticket **250**. The money prize **260** is obtained from the money fund source **354** and was similarly discussed above.

The machine **200** also includes a user interface block **355** that receives any inputs through the selector **256** and the buttons set **202** as have been discussed above.

The machine **200** also includes standard lottery vending machine components that are known to those skilled in the relevant art(s) and are as follows: (1) other standard lottery machine hardware and/or circuits as represented by the block **360**, (2) other standard lottery machine software and/or firmware as represented by the block **362**, and (3) other standard lottery machine mechanisms as represented by the block **365**.

For purposes of focusing on the features in the embodiments of the invention, the details of blocks **360**, **362**, and **365** are not discussed herein.

Another exemplary operation of the machine **200** is now discussed. If a lottery ticket **250** is not a winning lottery ticket, the scanner **342** reads the code **344** and the processor **305** determines that the code **344** does not contain a winning number set as set by a software **310**. Since the lottery ticket **250** does not contain a code **344** that is a winner, the processor **305** permits the display screen driver **320** to display "$0" in the money prize display **270** and the slot **245** will not provide any money **260**.

On the other hand, if the scanner **342** reads the code **344** and the processor **305** determines that the code **344** contains a winning number set as set by a software **310**, then the processor **305** permits the display screen driver **320** to display the winning money prize dollar amount in the money prize display **270** of the screen **265** and the machine **200** does not provide any money prize **260** if the winning money prize dollar amount exceeds a state limit. If the winning money prize dollar amount exceeds the state limit, the processor **305** permits the display screen driver **320** to display the winning money prize dollar amount in the money prize display **270** of screen **265** and to display a text message in the text display **275** of the screen **265**. For example, the text message might state the message: "State Limit exceeded, see lottery headquarters". The text message may also display the address of the lottery headquarters, or the address may be visibly fixed or listed on the machine **200** surface. The processor **305** (based on the programming of the software **310** stored in the memory **315**) may be configured to trigger the output feed mechanism **350** to eject (or return) the lottery ticket **250** from the machine **200** back to the user, if the winning ticket **250** exceeds the state limit.

In an embodiment of the invention, if the winning money prize dollar amount of a lottery ticket **250** does not exceed the state limit, the machine **200** allows the individual with a winning lottery ticket **250** with any of the following credit options: (1) the individual can select to receive a money prize amount **260** associated with the winning lottery ticket **250**, (2) the individual can select to purchase and receive additional lottery tickets in the total amount equal to the money prize amount **260** associated with the winning lottery ticket **250**, or (3) the individual can select to receive a combination of both money prize and additionally purchased lottery tickets where the money prize and additionally purchased lottery tickets will have a sum equal to the money prize amount **260** associated with the winning lottery ticket **250**. For example, if the money prize for a winning lottery ticket **250** is $10, then the individual can select any of the following credit options: (1) the user can select the selector **256**, and in response to the signals from the actuation of the selector **256**, the processor **350** will cause the output feed mechanism **350** to obtain $10 from the source **354** and to provide the $10 through the slot **245**; (2) the user can select one or more buttons in the set **202** that have cash values equal to the money prize amount **260** of $10 (e.g., the user can select the button **205***d* which allows the user to purchase a $10 lottery ticket, or the user can select the buttons **205***c* and **210***c* which allow the user to purchase two $5 lottery tickets of two different types of lottery contests, or another combination of lottery tickets that total $10 in value), and in response to the signals from the actuations of the selected buttons in the set **202**, the processor **305** will cause the output feed mechanism **350** to output the selected lottery ticket(s) generated by the lottery ticket generator **352**; or (3) the user can select an appropriate button in the set **202** (e.g., the user can select the button **205***c* which is $5 lottery ticket

for a particular type of lottery contest) and then select the selector **256**, and in response to the signals from the actuation of the button **205**c and the actuation of the selector **256**, the processor **350** will cause the output feed mechanism **350** to output a $5 lottery ticket generated by the ticket generator **352** through the slot **245** and to obtain $5 from the source **354** to also provide the money prize **240** of $5 through the slot **245**. The above credit options and calculations associated with a credit option may be performed by code in a software **311** (or firmware **311**) that is executable by the processor **305** and stored in the memory **315**. Alternatively, the functionality of the code in software **311** may be performed by code in the software **310** and the software **311** is omitted in this embodiment of the invention. In contrasts, conventional lottery ticket machines do not provide these credit options that the user can select and choose for a winning lottery ticket **250**.

In an embodiment of the invention, the processor **305** executes the software **312** (or firmware **312**) to permit the machine **200** to record and track all transactions in the lottery vending machine **200** and/or to perform other record tracking functions. The record **314** of all transactions and/or other data may be stored in the memory **315**. Alternatively, the functionality of the code in software **312** may be performed by code in the software **310** and the software **312** is omitted in this embodiment of the invention.

In an embodiment of the invention, any of the above functions permitted by the software **310**, software **311**, and/or software **312** may instead be performed by the processor **305**. The processor **305** may be configured to perform any of the functions permitted by the software **310**, software **311**, and/or software **312** by use of standard configuration techniques known to those skilled in the relevant art(s).

FIG. **4** is a method **400** of processing a transaction in a lottery vending machine, in accordance with an embodiment of the invention. In block **405**, the individual inserts a lottery ticket **250** into a lottery vending machine **200**. In block **410**, the scanner **342** in the machine **200** scans the code **344** in the lottery ticket **250** in order to determine if the ticket **250** contains a winning number set.

In block **415**, the processor **305** determines whether or not the lottery ticket **250** contains a winning number set. If the lottery ticket **250** does not contain a winning number set, then in block **420**, the display screen **265** will display $0 to indicate that the lottery ticket **250** is not a winning ticket and the machine **200** will not provide any money prizes **260** from the slot **245**.

If the processor **305** determines that the lottery ticket **250** contains a winning number set, then in block **420**, the processor **305** determines if the money prize amount of the winning lottery ticket exceeds the state limit. If the money prize amount exceeds the state limit, then in block **425**, the display screen **265** will display a text message indicating that the money prize amounts exceeds the state limit and the machine **200** will not output any money prizes **260** through the slot **245**. On the other hand, if the money prize amount does not exceed the state limit, then in block **430** the user can select one of the following credit options: (1) the user can select a money prize option and the machine **200** will output a money prize amount **260** (equal to the prize amount of the winning lottery ticket) through the slot **245**; (2) the user can select a lottery ticket(s) only option and the machine **200** will output one or more selected lottery ticket(s) (having a sum value equal to the money prize amount of the winning lottery ticket) through the slot **245**; and (3) the user can select a money prize and lottery ticket(s) combination option and the machine **200** will output a money prize amount and one or more selected lottery tickets through the slot **245**, and the money prize amount and

the selected lottery ticket(s) will have a sum value equal to the money prize amount of the winning lottery ticket.

Therefore, an embodiment of the invention provides at least one of the following features.

An embodiment of the invention provides an apparatus comprising a lottery vending machine having an input slot configured to receive a lottery ticket, a second input slot configured to receive cash, and an output slot configured to output at least one of a money prize and a purchased lottery ticket.

In an embodiment, the apparatus provides a selectable credit option where the lottery vending machine, in response to receiving a winning lottery ticket, is configured to provide one of the following credit options: a money prize, one or more selected lottery tickets, or a combination of one or more lottery ticket(s) and a money amount.

In an embodiment, the apparatus is configured to scan the lottery ticket in order to determine if the lottery ticket includes a winning number set.

In an embodiment, the apparatus is configured to display a money prize amount of a lottery ticket with a winning number set.

In an embodiment, the apparatus is configured to display a text message if a money prize amount of a lottery ticket with a winning number set exceeds a state limit.

In yet another embodiment of the invention, a method of processing a transaction in a lottery vending machine includes: inserting a lottery ticket into a lottery vending machine, scanning the lottery ticket, if the ticket is a winning ticket, then determining if the money prize exceeds a state limit, and if the money prize does not exceed the state limit, then providing a credit option from one of the following: a money prize, one or more lottery tickets, and a money prize and one or more lottery tickets.

Other variations and modifications of the above-described embodiments and methods are possible in light of the teaching discussed herein.

The above description of illustrated embodiments of the invention, including what is described in the Abstract, is not intended to be exhaustive or to limit the invention to the precise forms disclosed. While specific embodiments of, and examples for, the invention are described herein for illustrative purposes, various equivalent modifications are possible within the scope of the invention, as those skilled in the relevant art will recognize.

These modifications can be made to the invention in light of the above detailed description. The terms used in the following claims should not be construed to limit the invention to the specific embodiments disclosed in the specification and the claims. Rather, the scope of the invention is to be determined entirely by the following claims, which are to be construed in accordance with established doctrines of claim interpretation.

What is claimed is:

1. An apparatus, comprising:

a lottery vending machine configured to receive a winning lottery ticket and configured to receive cash;

wherein the winning lottery ticket is directed to a particular type of lottery contest; wherein the lottery vending machine is configured to receive the winning lottery ticket in a ticket insert in the lottery vending machine;

wherein the lottery vending machine is configured to receive cash in a cash insert in the lottery vending machine and is configured to output a second lottery ticket on an output slot in the lottery vending machine based on the cash received in the cash insert and on a lottery contest selected in a user interface block on the lottery vending machine;

wherein the winning lottery ticket comprises a code;

wherein the lottery vending machine comprises a scanner configured for scanning the code and a processor configured for determining if the winning lottery ticket comprises a winning number set in the particular type of lottery contest;

wherein the lottery vending machine comprises a money fund source in the lottery vending machine, wherein the money fund source provides a money prize comprising cash that is outputted on the output slot in the lottery vending machine;

wherein the lottery vending machine comprises a screen configured for displaying a money prize amount associated with the winning lottery ticket;

wherein the user interface block is configured for receiving an input from an individual so that the input permits the individual to select the lottery vending machine to perform one of the following outputs from the output slot: the lottery vending machine outputs cash having an amount equal to the money prize amount associated with the winning lottery ticket wherein the money fund source provides the cash, outputs another lottery ticket having a value equal to the money prize amount, outputs a first plurality of lottery tickets having a sum value equal to the money prize amount, outputs a second plurality of lottery tickets directed to different types of lottery contests and having the sum value equal to the money prize amount, or outputs a combination of cash and at least one additional lottery ticket wherein the combination has the sum value equal to the money prize amount;

wherein each one of the lottery tickets that is outputted by the lottery vending machine includes a respective code and is directed to a corresponding lottery contest;

wherein the screen displays a zero dollar amount and the output slot does not output any cash if the winning lottery ticket does not include the winning number set;

wherein the cash from the money fund source comprises at least one dollar bill; wherein the particular type of lottery contest and corresponding lottery contest are managed by a state lottery authority and wherein the lottery vending machine is configured to elect the winning lottery ticket and is configured to not output any prizes, if the money prize amount of the winning lottery ticket with the winning number set exceeds a state limit.

2. The apparatus of claim **1**, wherein each one of the lottery tickets output by the lottery vending machine is output from the output slot.

3. The apparatus of claim **1**, wherein the user interface block in the lottery vending machine includes a plurality of buttons that permit the individual to select at least one of a lottery payment price and a type of lottery contest.

4. The apparatus of claim **1**, wherein the lottery vending machine is configured to display the money prize amount if the winning lottery ticket has the winning number set.

5. The apparatus of claim **1**, wherein the lottery vending machine is configured to determine if a money prize amount of the winning lottery ticket with the winning number set exceeds a state limit.

6. The apparatus of claim **1**, wherein the lottery vending machine is configured to display a text message and is configured to not output any prizes, if the money prize amount of the winning lottery ticket with the winning number set exceeds a state limit.

7. The apparatus of claim **1**, further comprising: a software executed by the processor and configured to provide a credit option that is selected by the individual and configured to

provide calculations based on the money prize amount of the winning lottery ticket with the winning number set.

8. An apparatus, comprising:

a lottery vending machine including:

a ticket insert configured for receiving a winning lottery ticket;

a cash insert configured for receiving cash;

wherein the winning lottery ticket is directed to a particular type of lottery contest; wherein the lottery vending machine is configured to receive the winning lottery ticket in the ticket insert configured for receiving the winning lottery ticket in the lottery vending machine;

wherein the lottery vending machine is configured to receive cash in the cash insert and is configured to output a second lottery ticket on an output slot in the lottery vending machine based on the cash received in the cash insert and on a lottery contest selected in a user interface block on the lottery vending machine;

and wherein the winning lottery ticket comprises a code;

wherein the lottery vending machine comprises a scanner configured for scanning the code and a processor configured for determining if the winning lottery ticket comprises a winning number set in the particular type of lottery contest;

wherein the lottery vending machine comprises a money fund source in the lottery vending machine, wherein the money fund source provides a money prize comprising cash that is outputted on the output slot in the lottery vending machine;

wherein the lottery vending machine comprises a screen configured for displaying a money prize amount associated with the winning lottery ticket;

wherein the user interface block is configured for receiving an input from an individual so that the input permits the individual to select the lottery vending machine to perform one of the following outputs from the output slot means: the lottery vending machine outputs cash having an amount equal to the money prize amount associated with the winning lottery ticket wherein the money fund source provides the cash, outputs another lottery ticket having a value equal to the money prize amount, outputs a first plurality of lottery tickets having a sum value equal to the money prize amount, outputs a second plurality of lottery tickets directed to different types of lottery contests and having the sum value equal to the money prize amount, or outputs a combination of cash and at least one additional lottery ticket wherein the combination has the sum value equal to the money prize amount; wherein each one of the lottery tickets that is output by the lottery vending machine includes a respective code and is directed to a corresponding lottery contest;

wherein the screen displays a zero dollar amount and the output slot means does not output any cash if the winning lottery ticket does not include the winning number set; wherein the cash provided by the money fund source comprises at least one dollar bill; wherein the particular type of lottery contest and corresponding lottery contest are managed by a state lottery authority and wherein the lottery vending machine is configured to elect the winning lottery ticket and is configured to not output any prizes, if the money prize amount of the winning lottery ticket with the winning number set exceeds a state limit.

9. The apparatus of claim **8**, wherein the lottery vending machine is configured to display the money prize amount if the winning lottery ticket has the winning number set.

10. The apparatus of claim **8**, wherein the lottery vending machine is configured to determine if a money prize amount of the winning lottery ticket with the winning number set exceeds a state limit.

11. The apparatus of claim **8**, wherein the lottery vending machine is configured to display a text message and is configured to not output any prizes, if the money prize amount of the winning lottery ticket with the winning number set exceeds a state limit.

12. A method of processing a transaction in a lottery vending machine, the method comprising:

inserting a winning lottery ticket into a lottery vending machine;

wherein the winning lottery ticket is directed to a particular type of lottery contest; wherein the lottery vending machine is configured to receive the winning lottery ticket in a ticket insert in the lottery vending machine;

wherein the lottery vending machine is configured to receive cash in a cash insert in the lottery vending machine and is configured to output a second lottery ticket on an output slot in the lottery vending machine based on the cash received in the cash insert and on a lottery contest selected in a user interface block on the lottery vending machine;

scanning the winning lottery ticket wherein the winning lottery ticket comprises a code; if the winning lottery ticket comprises a winning number set, then determining if a money prize exceeds a state limit;

wherein the lottery vending machine comprises a scanner configured for scanning the code and a processor configured for determining if the winning lottery ticket includes the winning number set in the particular type of lottery contest;

wherein the lottery vending machine comprises a money fund source in the lottery vending machine, wherein the money fund source provides a money prize comprising cash that is outputted on the output slot in the lottery vending machine;

wherein the lottery vending machine comprises a screen configured for displaying a money prize amount associated with the winning lottery ticket; and if the money prize does not exceed the state limit, then inputting by an individual, into the user interface block, an input so that the input permits the individual to select the lottery vending machine to perform one of the following outputs from the output slot: the lottery vending machine outputs cash equal to the money prize amount associated with the winning lottery ticket wherein the money fund source provides the cash, outputs another lottery ticket having a value equal to the money prize amount, outputs a plurality of lottery tickets having a sum value equal to the money prize amount, outputs a plurality of lottery tickets directed to different types of lottery contests and having the sum value equal to the money prize amount, or outputs a combination of cash and at least one additional lottery ticket wherein the combination has the sum value equal to the money prize amount;

wherein each one of the lottery tickets that is output by the lottery vending machine includes a respective code and is directed to a corresponding lottery contest; wherein the screen displays a zero dollar amount and the output slot does not output any cash if the winning lottery ticket does not include the winning number set; wherein the cash from the money fund source comprises at least one dollar bill, wherein the particular type of lottery contest and corresponding lottery contest are managed by a state lottery authority and wherein if the money prize exceeds the state limit, then displaying a text indicating that the money prize exceeds the state limit and electing the winning lottery ticket and preventing an output of any prizes from the lottery vending machine; wherein the cash from the money fund source comprises at least one dollar bill; wherein the particular type of lottery contest and correspond lottery contest are managed by a state lottery authority.

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